



*Affiliates of Mental Health America in
Abilene, Dallas, Greater Houston, Southeast Texas, and Tarrant County Support:*

**House Bill 906 (Thompson, Senfronia | Phelan | Moody | Bonnen, Greg | Coleman)
| Senate Bill 992 (Powell):
Effective, Efficient, and Accountable School-Based Mental Health Programs**

What does HB 906 | SB 992 do?

This bill establishes a university-based, collaborative task force to study and evaluate state-funded mental health programs and practices in public and open-enrollment charter schools.

What problem does the bill solve?

The Texas Legislature is proposing to spend millions of new dollars on school-based mental health programs. HB 906 | SB 992 will provide accountability for Texas' taxpayers by allowing the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and partnering universities to examine how these dollars are spent and track the results and outcomes of the state's investments.

How does HB 906 work | SB 992 work?

The proposed Collaborative Task Force on Public School Mental Health Services will be housed within a state institution of higher education and fall under the authority of TEA. Its duties will be two-fold: 1) Gather data on the race, ethnicity, gender, special education status, and geographic location of people receiving mental health services in public and open-enrollment charter schools; and 2) Study, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding state-funded mental health services, mental health trainings for educators, and how to increase the impact of school-based mental health services in increasing safety and decreasing violence in schools. An advisory board comprised of service providers, educators, and others will guide the work of the Task Force.

How does HB 906 | SB 992 complement SB 10 (Nelson, J.) and HB 10 (Thompson, S.)?

SB 10 (Nelson) increases access to mental health services by creating a mental health consortium to foster collaboration, address psychiatry workforce issues, promote mental health research and strengthen judicial training on juvenile mental health.

For questions or comments, please contact:
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HB 10 (Thompson) calls for the creation of the Texas Mental & Behavioral Health Research Institute (TMBHRI) to focus on increasing the number of mental health and behavioral health providers for children and studying the underlying causes of these conditions.

HB 906 (Thompson) is the only one of these three important bills that examines the effectiveness of state-funded school-based programs. HB 906 provides accountability to Texas taxpayers. It directs TEA to create a university-based task force to evaluate the efficacy of state-funded school-based mental health services in public and open-enrollment charter schools.

How much does HB 906 | SB 992 cost?

Under the proposed funding model, the Commissioner of TEA is authorized to direct five percent, or up to ten percent, of funds appropriated for school-based mental health services toward program evaluation by the Collaborative Task Force on Public School Mental Health Services.

Who is likely to support this legislation?

Mental Health America's Texas affiliates, Texas Classroom Teachers Association, the National Association of Social Workers – Texas Chapter, Legacy Community Health, Children at Risk, Texans Care for Children, the Mayor's Office - City of Houston, Houston Independent School District and NAMI Texas and its affiliates, among others.

Who is likely to oppose this legislation?

Currently, there is no known opposition to this bill. There is general public agreement that transparency for taxpayer spending is a good thing.

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